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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,389	02/15/2001	Ghassan Semaan	453.06	3002

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EXAMINER

COFFY, EMMANUEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/784,389

Applicant(s)

SEMAAN ET AL.

Examiner

Emmanuel Coffy

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 11, 2005 has been entered.

Claims 1-17 directed to a method for "Address Resolution Protocol To Map Internet Protocol Addresses To a Node Transport Identifier" are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 10 are amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 8 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The dependent and non-amended claims stand rejected as articulated in the last Office Action and all objections not addressed in Applicant's response are herein reiterated. Applicant is advised that only the significant amendments are herein addressed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicoll et al. (US 6,356,563) in view of Beser et al. (US 6,654,387).

Nicoll substantially teaches the invention as claimed including a method comprising the steps of assigning a first address of a first network protocol to each of a first plurality of sites of a first network and to each of a second plurality of sites of a second network internetworked with the first network, the first network conforming to the first network protocol and the second network conforming to the second network protocol. (See col. 3, lines 41-48.)

As for claim 1, it recites a method of automatically mapping network addresses of a first protocol for a plurality of network elements in a first network to network addresses of a second protocol, comprising the steps of:

assigning an address corresponding to the first protocol for each network element of the plurality of network elements; (See col. 3, lines 9-67.)

assigning an address corresponding to the second protocol for each network element of the plurality of network elements; (See col. 3, lines 9-67.)

associating said addresses corresponding to the first and second protocols within said table for each network element of the plurality of network elements, (See col. 3, lines 9-67.)

the second protocol being a different protocol than the first protocol; and (See col. 3, lines 9-67.)

wherein each of the network elements utilize the first protocol addresses to transmit data destined for other network elements via the first network.

Nicoll does not specifically teach "defining a table in each network element of the plurality network elements;" However, Baser teaches the maintenance of a network address table such as an Address Resolution Protocol Table. (See col. 3, lines 13-15). Baser further teaches associating a time value with a network address at col. 31, lines 43-48. Baser fails to address the address mapping with identifier assignment.

Hence, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of global addressing and identifier assignment in inter-worked networks as taught by Nicoll with the maintenance of a network address table taught by Baser.

Such system would provide a method to map IP address to another protocol address and prevent entries in the tables from becoming stale by flushing the tables at the expiration of a specified time. A user may enjoy improved resource allocation and security in such system.

As for claim 2, it recites associating an update timer with the first protocol address for each network element in the first network

propagating the first network protocol identifier from each network at periodic intervals, resetting the update timer,

removing a network element from the table if the timer reaches a pre-determined count value.

Baser teaches this timer concept extensively at col. 31, lines 41-51 and the propagation at periodic interval at col. 29, lines 29-38.

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As for claim 3, it recites the step of defining a port number for each network element in the first network.

Microsoft Computer Dictionary (5th Ed.) defines port number as a number that enables IP packets to be sent to a particular process on a computer connected to the Internet. Some port numbers are "well known" numbers, are permanently assigned; for example, e-mail data under SMTP goes to port number 25.

Furthermore, Baser discloses the use of port number associated with a process on Table 2 (col. 10) and Fig. 17 . Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of associating port number with a process as disclosed by Baser with the method for address mapping disclosed by Nicoll.

This provides for a well architected network and claim 3 is rejected in further view of Microsoft Computer Dictionary. Applicant is advised that "Official Notice" is henceforth taken on the above matter.

As for claim 4, it does not recite any new significant limitation above and beyond claim 3 and is therefore, rejected for the same reason articulated above.

As for claim 5, it recites the limitation wherein the first network is configured in a ring topology.

As for above claim, "Official Notice" is taken that the use of the ring configuration topology as disclosed by Akatsu et al. (US 6,378,000) (See col. 9, lines 7-9) is well

known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to use the configuration disclosed by Akatsu since the ring topology is known as a configuration for a Local Area Network (LAN) and is a well known network configuration in the art which allows a ring network to cover larger distances than star and bus networks.

As for claim 6, it recites the limitation wherein the first network is configured in a point-to-point network.

A point-to-point network as disclosed by Akatsu (See Fig. 5) is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to use a point-to-point topology to configure the network disclosed by Akatsu since the point-to-point topology is known as a communications link in which dedicated links exist between individual origins and destinations. Again, a point-to-point configuration is well known in the art, which allows dedicated links between the origin and destination (satellite/dish antenna as opposed to cable tv systems) in a network.

As for claim 7, it recites the method of claim 5 wherein the first network is a SONET ring network and the first network protocol comprises the Internet Protocol operating over a SONET Data Communications Channel protocol.

Baser teaches the fundamentals of the Internet Protocol (IP) at col. 7, lines 1-8 even referencing the OSI model. Moreover, IP is well known in the art.

Additionally, Akatsu discloses the concept of data conversion from MPEG to SONET protocol. (See col. 9, lines 4-9).

Hence, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of IP taught by Baser with the method for

data conversion from one protocol (MPEG) to SONET disclosed by Akatsu.

Such a system would cover larger distances than a star or bus network.

As for claim 8, it recites the limitation wherein the method of claim 2 further comprises the step of maintaining a status of each network element in the table. Claim 9, it recites a limitation wherein the status of each network element comprises one of new node, updated node and deleted node.

Applicant explicates the notion of "a status of each network" on page 16, lines 10-15 of the specification. A status field indicates whether the node is new, updated or deleted.

Beser teaches a process of updating the table by deleting a certain network address at col. 31, lines 27-40 (See also col. 34, lines 1-4 and col. 2, lines 31-58). This scheme would enhance the efficiency of the network. Therefore, claim 8 and 9 are rejected.

Claims 10-15

These claims do not teach or define any significantly new limitation above and beyond claims 1-9 to warrant particular treatment, and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

5. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beser et al. (US 6,654,387) in view of Akatsu et al. (US 6,378,000) and in further view of Weiman (US 6,141,690).

Claim 16:

The method of claim 1, wherein said table is empty upon initiation.

Baser teaches the maintenance of a network address table such as an Address Resolution Protocol Table. (See col. 3, lines 13-15). Neither Baser nor Akatsu discloses the limitation wherein said table is empty upon initiation.

However, Weiman teaches the concept of putting the status of a buffer to EMPTY at a designated time or when some conditions are met (See col. 8, lines 38-45.)

Hence, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of IP taught by Baser and the system disclosed by Akatsu with the EMPTY status disclosed by Weiman. It helps to cycle the table a lot more quickly because there are other addresses that can be received on the network.

Claim 17:

The method of claim 10, wherein said table is empty upon initiation.

Baser teaches the maintenance of a network address table such as an Address Resolution Protocol Table. (See col. 3, lines 13-15). Neither Baser nor Akatsu discloses the limitation wherein said table is empty upon initiation.

However, Weiman teaches the concept of putting the status of a buffer to EMPTY at a designated time or when some conditions are met (See col. 8, lines 38-45.)

Hence, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention for an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the use of IP taught by Baser and the system disclosed by Akatsu with the EMPTY status disclosed by Weiman. It helps to cycle the table a lot more quickly because there are other addresses that can be received on the network.

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CONCLUSION

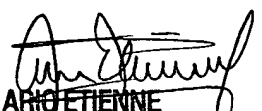
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Coffy whose telephone number is (571) 272-3997. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-3997. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Emmanuel Coffy
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2157

EC
September 16, 2005


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